



Robinson Murray

Robinson Murray, painter, artist and business

man, comes from an old New England family going back to the Pilgrim days, one of his forebears being Governor Howland of Plymouth. He was born in Boston on the last day of 1890. While still a baby, the family moved to Wollaston, where he grew up. He has 2 younger sisters, Mary and Esther Murray.

After Wollaston grade school, he entered Quincy High School, class of 1903, and after graduation took a post-graduate course. He played quarter back on the football team (weighing 128 pounds) and was on the track team. The family attended Wollaston Congregational Church, where his uncle was minister for many years.

Preparing to enter Harvard, he needed one additional subject to meet the entrance requirements and decided to take the examination on free-hand drawing. Despite the school principal's objection he went ahead, and got an A plus, "the only one I ever got in my life," he says.

While at Harvard, he became a member of the track team (pole vaulter), and played on the class football team. He was elected a member of Alpha Phi Sigma (of which he became president), and was elected also to Delta Upsilon Fraternity. In the annual performance of an old English play he played Madge Mumblecrust, an old nurse. Robert Benchley, a fellow-member of the fraternity, played the lead.

He became art director of the Harvard Illustrated

Magazine and became banjoist on the musical club. He joined Alpha Phi Sigma, and became president in his senior year. Scholastically, he took several courses in art and drawing. Two of his designs were chosen to be used on the Class Day tickets, 1912.

After graduating he continued his art work with several small art agencies, and spent several months at the Vesper George Art School in Boston. In 1917 he became assistant advertising manager of Elliot-Fisher in Harrisburg. He resigned to attend the Second Officer's Training Camp and was assigned to the regular army, 3rd Division, 38th Regiment, serving as battalion intelligence officer. Meanwhile, he had become acquainted with Miss Margaret Pierson of Philadelphia, who had gone to the nurses aide training camp, a Vassar graduate studying for a PhD. She served in France for a year.

Murray's unit was ordered to France in the spring of 1918 and sent to the front lines near Chateau Thierry on the Marne River. It held this position during the big German attack in July. Murray received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honor of France, and was promoted to captain.

In January, 1920, when on leave preparatory to return to the States, Murray and Miss Pierson were married in Paris, and lived "happily ever after," until her death in Duxbury in 1974. They came to Duxbury to live in 1951.

From 1930 to 1935, the family moved to Paris where he was manager of the French branch of a large American advertising agency. Just before the second World War, he was transferred to the London office, returning in 1948. He retired from business in 1950. Since then, his occupation has been that of artist and cabinet maker.

He has had many art exhibitions, including New York, Boston, Worcester, Springfield and other cities. He was president of the Duxbury Art Ass'n in the 50's. He also found time to play low handicap golf in 20 different countries, winning the championship of an English club, a French club, 2 clubs in New York along with the championship of the New England Seniors Golf Ass'n.

His present exhibition is at the Beaux Arts Gallery in Duxbury from Nov. 15 to Nov. 29.